Cotochesett House
Osterville Mass.
Sept. 9. 86 -

My dear Doctor Gray

You must think it strange that you have not yet heard from us in response to your kind invitation to spend a few days with us -

It came about in this wise - we had no fixed place for the summer - some business - some wishes - and so had no idea where we should be carried - if we could help it we did not wish to go so far north - all at once - disgusted with our almost humorous experience of the sea shore on the Jersey Coast. we suddenly packed off for our old love - Osterville - daily I had intended to write - but kept delaying because I could not tell where we should go - and of course not when we should be there - so

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such advice - especially to know the character of the stores we have been at - From Dr Parry I have not heard since early spring - and I fear that he is a little put out - sorry as I am I could not help it as there was nothing for him to do and moreover no room to do anything in - we have had the house full of workmen all the time and will again this fall until we are settled -

Don't read all this if you are not still in vacations -

With kindest regards to Mrs Gray and yourself from wife and self

Truly yours

Geo J. Engelmann

suddenly to our surprise we found ourselves in Boston, never thinking that we should be there until the morning of the day we came – home I could not write – but came out at once to tell you. as Mr E. supposed I did not find you. and left a line to tell you that we could not pass through Boston without looking to see if you had not perchance changed your plans – Well – so we are here now – and having only had the few days of our stay here – as days of rest – we shall – and must stay here as long as long as possible – that is until time to go to the Baltimore Meeting – where I should be. latest on the morning of Monday Sept 20th – if Mrs E. feels well enough I shall have her go with me. otherwise I think that I shall leave her here until she can meet me in New York – where we must again go _after_ the meeting – so that it will be impossible for us to accept your Kind invitation – greatly as we regret it – You have now – I hope received the photograph of father – life size. which I sent you. Coarse – enlarged – but the best I could obtain in St Louis – possibly it might be done better in N.Y. –

If you have not yet recd the photos for the work – they will be sent if you write to the man whose ad. you undoubtedly have. I did not go to see before leaving because I had my hands so full – You know we have built a little addition. an entrance on Garrison Av. – so as to have the office in the house –

Now – as usual I must trouble you – or perhaps Mrs Gray with something as we have some furnishing to do we thought of Boston – have looked about some. but it would be a great help if you would Kindly give us the _address_ of _some_ of _the best Furniture stores_ – _and wall decorations_ undoubtedly Mrs Gray Knows. and I should be greatly indebted for a few